In the claims:

Claims 1-2 cancelled.

3. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim ~~1~~23, wherein said encoder (3) is provided with a bit stream buffer (2) and said predetermined capacity parameter is at least one of a buffer filling state of said bit stream buffer (2) and a quantization parameter for the coding.

4. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim ~~1~~23, wherein said encoder (3) is provided with a bit stream buffer (2) and said predetermined capacity parameter is a transformation coefficient for the coding.

Claims 5-7 cancelled.

8. (Original) The method as defined in claim 3, further comprising, prior to processing a following image for regulation of the buffer filling state, registering a required bit quantity for the coding of the actual image and adding the required bit quantity to the filling state of the bit stream buffer after subtracting an average bit quantity.

9. (Original) The method as defined in claim 8, further comprising looping back to a previous coding format with full resolution when the filling state

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of the bit stream buffer (2) moves under a predetermined limiting value after reduction of said coding format.

10. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim ~~1~~23, further comprising raising said resolution by a plurality of resolution stages after said reduction of said resolution.

11. (Original) The method as defined in claim 10, further comprising a hysteresis mechanism for limiting coding format changes during the coding.

12. (Original) The method as defined in claim 10, wherein said encoder has a bit stream buffer and further comprising a hysteresis mechanism comprising limiting coding format changes to a minimum number for said images during said coding, independently of a filling state of said bit stream buffer.

13. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim ~~5~~23, wherein said sub-scanning with said low-pass filter is performed at least in a horizontal direction.

14. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim ~~2~~23, further comprising calling upon information for testing whether or not said actual

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Image has been subjected to said reduction of said coding format and wherein said information is available to said decoder and is transmitted as system information.

Claim 15 cancelled.

16. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim 2~~2~~3, further comprising amplification of every reduced code format for said image. sequence prior to reproduction on a decoder-side display device.

Claims 17-22 cancelled.

23. (Currently amended) A method of coding an image sequence, said method comprising the steps of:

a) prior to performing said coding, testing whether or not an actual image of a video image sequence has reached or exceeded a predetermined capacity parameter for a capacity of an encoder performing the coding of the image sequence; and

b) performing a reduction of a coding format used in the coding so as to reduce resolution for a portion of the image sequence coded and coding said actual image with said coding format after said reduction when said capacity parameter has been reached or exceeded;

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wherein the reduction of the coding format comprises an adaptive sub-scanning with low-pass filtering of said actual image under control of said predetermined capacity parameter;

wherein said coding is ~~synthetically~~ syntactically restarted after changing said coding format;

wherein said encoder is an MPEG-4 encoder; and

interrupting an actual video object layer, writing a new video object header and initializing a new video object layer with an INTRA-coded image in a new coded format when said coding format changes.

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